

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CPR-02 L-03 SCA-01 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SY-07 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 SS-14 NSC-10 SAJ-01 CAB-09 OC-06 RSR-01

DODE-00 H-02 /119 W

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R 131157 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2990

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1151

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ETRN, PL

SUBJECT: ANTI- HIJACKING SEARCHES OF DIPLOMATS

REF: STATE 042195

1. OUR OBSERVATIONS AT WARSAW AIRPORT AND EXPERIENCES OF U. S. EMBASSY OFFICERS IN DEPARTING FROM WARSAW DURING RECENT MONTHS INDICATE THAT POLISH AUTHORITIES ARE NOT APPLYING ANTI- HIJACKING MEASURES WITH CONSISTENCY. ELECTRONIC SCREENING OF PASSENGERS, BY USE OF A WALK- THROUGH DOOR- FRAME- LIKE DEVICE, AND INSPECTION OF CARRY- ON ITEMS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN A NUMBER OF INSTANCES WE HAVE OBSERVED, BUT NOT IN ALL CASES. IF ANY PATTERN EXISTS, IT APPEARS THAT SUCH MEASURES ARE MORE FREQUENTLY APPLIED TO PASSENGERS BOARDING FLIGHTS BOUND FOR OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAN TO THE WEST.

2. WHEN THESE MEASURES ARE USED, HOWEVER, IT DOES APPEAR THAT POLISH AUTHORITIES SEEK TO EMPLOY THEM UNIFORMLY TO ALL PASSENGERS. THUS, ALL PASSENGERS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATICS, ARE REQUIRED TO PASS THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC DOOR- FRAME (OR AT LEAST WE KNOW OF NO INSTANCE WHERE A DIPLOMAT HAS REQUESTED AN EXEMPTION FROM THIS PROCEDURE).

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FURTHERMORE, THE EXPERIENCE OF ONE EMBASSY OFFICER WHO LAST MONTH FLEW FROM WARSAW TO FRANKFURT ON LUFTHANSA ALSO SUGGESTS THAT BEARERS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM INSPECTION OF CARRY- ON ITEMS. THE EMBASSY OFFICER WAS CARRYING A LARGE WRAPPED PACKAGE AND ATTACHE CASE. ALTHOUGH INSPECTING OFFICERS WERE AWARE OF HIS DIPLOMATIC STATUS, THEY REQUESTED THAT THE PACKAGE BE OPENED. WHEN THE OFFICER SHOWED RELUCTANCE TO RUIN A CAREFUL WRAPPING JOB, THEY INSISTED, BUT THEN ALLOWED HIS BRIEFCASE TO GO THROUGH UNINSPECTED.

3. ON DOMESTIC FLIGHTS, HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC IDENTIFICATION CARDS HAVE BEEN EXEMPT FROM INSPECTION OR FROM THE NEED TO GIVE UP HANDBAGS, PURSES, ATTACHE CASES, OR PACKAGES. FOR ALL OTHER PASSENGERS, SUCH ITEMS ARE COLLECTED AND TRANSPORTED IN A LOCKED CAGE, TO BE RETURNED AT THE DESTINATION TERMINAL.

4. THE EMBASSY INTENDS TO RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH THE LOCAL PANAM REPRESENTATIVE AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY. IF THIS PRODUCES ANY INFORMATION TO SUPPLEMENT THE ABOVE, WE WILL REPORT ACCORDINGLY.

DAVIES

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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